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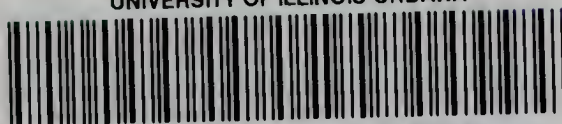
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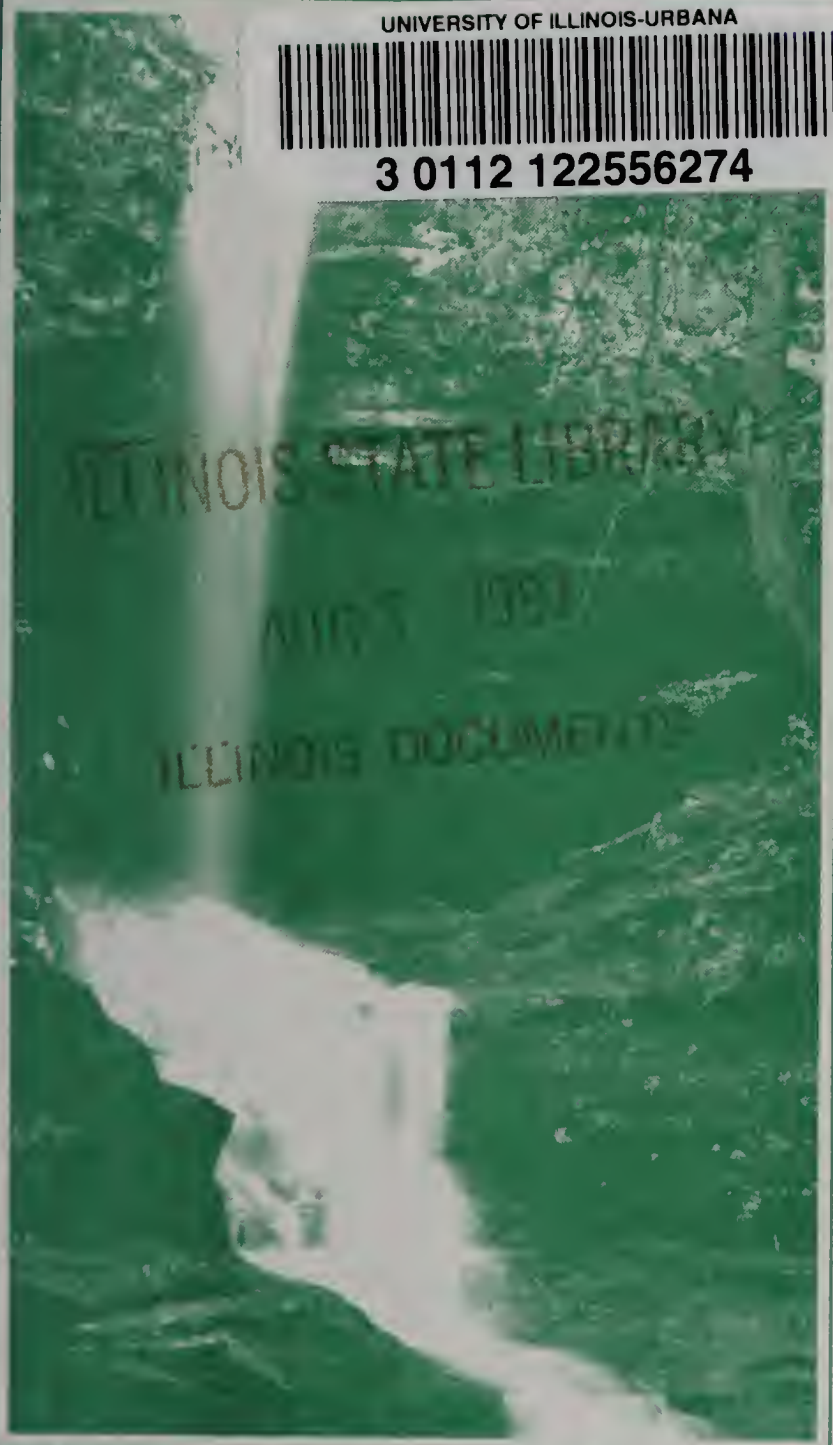
Ferne Clyffe

STATE PARK

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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CONSERVATION

WELCOME TO FERNE CLYFFE STATE PARK!

Ferne Clyffe State Park offers a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities including camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, fishing, and sightseeing. The 1,100-acre park is in a scenic wooded area with unique rock formations and several inspiring vistas. Visitors can see the majority of those plants and animals native to southern Illinois and on occasion may have the opportunity to see deer or turkeys. The park is located on Illinois Route 37, one mile south of Goreville and about twelve miles south of Marion. The park is easily accessible from both I-57 and I-24. Ferne Clyffe exits are well marked.

PARK OBJECTIVES

The main objective at Ferne Clyffe is to conserve and enhance the natural resources, while providing the opportunity for quality outdoor recreation experiences. Considering that almost 400,000 people visit Ferne Clyffe each year, the park staff needs your help to keep the park clean for the next visitor.

Sheer bluffs, loose sandstone, and shallow rooted plants create naturally occurring hazardous areas. For your safety, hike only on trails shown on this brochure.

HISTORY

The Ferne Clyffe area became well-known as an outstanding natural scenic spot as early as 1899, when the Dennison Brothers of Cairo bought the Hawk Cave/Rocky Hollow area and named it Ferne Clyffe for its abundance of ferns. They eventually sold their land to Miss Emma Rebman, a school teacher and Johnson County school superintendent. Miss Rebman began charging 10 cents for admission to the park on Sundays, while local townspeople would meet the morning train and transport patrons from the depot in Goreville to the park for a 10 cent fee also.

Realizing the value and popularity of the park, Miss Rebman offered to sell it to the state as early as 1929. In the years to follow, conservation and political groups such as the Greater Egypt Association and the Illinois Redevelopment Board joined the campaign for state acquisition, until, in 1949, the state purchased the original 140 acres from the aging Miss Rebman. Today, Ferne Clyffe State Park covers 1,100 acres of scenic Shawnee Hills, and offers the people of Illinois the opportunity to picnic, hike, camp, hunt, fish, ride their own horses, and appreciate the natural features of the area.

UNIQUE FEATURES

Round Bluff Nature Preserve is 53 acres in size and is located south of the Lakeview Picnic Shelter. Round Bluff is best known for unique geological features and unusual plant communities representative of the Greater Shawnee Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Springtime visitors can expect to see woodland wildflowers such as Dutchman's breeches, trillium, spring beauty, and trout lily. The Round Bluff area also contains many of the ferns characteristic of southern Illinois. Hiking is restricted to marked trails only. All plants and animals within the preserve are protected by law. If your group is larger than 25 people, you must obtain a group permit from the Site Superintendent before hiking the preserve.

Ferne Clyffe is well-known for its unique rock formations including a 150-foot-long shelter bluff known as Hawks' Cave and a 100-foot-tall intermittent waterfall. The most impressive rock formations can be seen from park trails.

In 1960 a 16-acre lake was built. Ferne Clyffe Lake has a maximum depth of 22 feet with a hiking trail along the one-mile shoreline. Boats and swimming are prohibited on the lake. The lake is open to bank fishing. Specific fishing regulations are posted at the lake parking area. From a scenic standpoint, the lake is most impressive when seen in the early morning or late evening from several points in the park. Before you leave, see the lake from the Lakeview Picnic Shelter or the Blackjack Oak Trail!

Over 700 species of plant life are known to exist in Ferne Clyffe. Species such as flowering dogwood, redbud, serviceberry, spicebush, sumac, sweet gum, maple, oak, hickory and many of the woodland wildflowers render extraordinary colors during the spring and fall. Late April and early May are the favorite times of visitors that come to see the springtime color show. Those that appreciate the fall colors generally plan their visits for October.

The visitor interested in viewing wildlife can expect to see many of the animals native to southern Illinois. It is common to see squirrels, rabbits, doves, quail, bluebirds, and other songbirds. Deer and wild turkeys are also seen occasionally from roads and trails.

FACILITIES

Picnicking — Ferne Clyffe has seven picnic areas. Several of these areas have picnic shelters. All picnic areas have parking facilities, picnic tables, toilets, and cooking grills. Please limit your cooking fires to park grills or your own cook stoves. Most of the picnic areas also have drinking water and playground equipment.

Camping — Ferne Clyffe has a campground for every type of camper, offering facilities for the modern, primitive, youth group, backpack, or equestrian camper.

The class "A" facility, Deer Ridge Campground, is well-shaded, has gravel pads with electric, picnic tables, and cooking grills. Deer Ridge features a modern shower building with flush toilets. The shower building is open seasonally, from the third Monday in April to the Monday before Thanksgiving. This campground also has six hydrants for drinking water and a sanitary station.

Out back is a class "D" primitive campground — Turkey Ridge. Turkey Ridge has two parking areas with over 20 walk-in camp sites. Facilities at this campground include individual camp pads with a picnic table and cooking grill. Drinking water and toilets are available near the parking lots.

Scouts, churches, and other youth groups use the Youth Group Campground. This is a class "D" facility with parking, drinking water, picnic tables, cooking grills, and toilets available. Groups of minors must have adequate supervision. At least one adult must accompany each 15 minors.

The backpack campground is also a class "D" campground and is a one-half mile hike from the Turkey Ridge primitive campground parking lot. This area has individual camp sites with cooking grills. Toilets are available. Get your drinking water at the parking lot. This area is located in a woods — please be careful with your fires.

For the equestrian, Ferne Clyffe has a class "D" area near the horse trail. Equestrians can ride to this campground on the trail system or drive directly to it in their vehicles. This area can comfortably accommodate a group of 25 and includes parking, picnic tables, drinking water, cooking grills, and toilets. Please tie horses to hitching rails rather

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than trees. Healthy trees will provide shade for you and your horses. There are no horses available for rent.

Campers using the Deer Ridge, Turkey Ridge, and Youth Group campgrounds are to select a site upon arrival. An authorized person will stop by to write your permit during patrol. Campers using the backpack or equestrian campgrounds are encouraged to call the Park Office in advance for their visit to arrange for permit writing. The park does not provide firewood; however, dead wood that is down on the ground can be used for firewood.

Trails — Ferne Clyffe has 10 trails totalling 15 miles in length. You will notice on the map that these trails have been numbered. These numbers correspond with the trail numbers shown below. The Rebman Trail (1) is a very short and easy hike, 1/4 mile long. A marker dedicated to Miss Emma Rebman has been located at the trail head. Hawks' Cave Trail (2) is an easy one-mile hike past one of the largest shelter bluffs in Illinois. The Big Rocky Hollow Trail (3) is an easy one-mile hike leading to a 100-foot-tall intermittenment waterfall. The Waterfall Trail (4) is moderately difficult. This 3/4-mile trail starts at the Deer Ridge Campground and leads the hiker to the waterfall via the Big Rocky Hollow Trail. The Black-jack Oak Trail (5) is a scenic, blufftop trail providing several impressive vistas. This trail is one-mile long and moderately difficult due to two steep climbs. This trail leads the hiker from the lake to the Hill-side Picnic Area. Ferne Clyffe Lake Trail (6) is an easy one-mile hike and provides the fisherman with good access to the banks of the lake. Happy Hollow Trail (7) is 5.5 miles long and winds through woods and old fields. It has several steep climbs and is considered a difficult hike. The Round Bluff Nature Preserve Trail (8) is slightly more than a mile long and takes the hiker past rare plants and unique rock formations. This trail is moderately difficult. The Happy Hollow Backpack Trail (9) is 1/2 mile long and leads to a primitive campground. The Happy Hollow Horse Trail (10) is eight miles long. This trail leads from the horseback campground to the Happy Hollow Trail. Portions of this trail are used by hikers and equestrians. Ride your horse on equestrian-designated trails only.

Fishing and Hunting — Ferne Clyffe is open to bank fishing. Fishermen will find a one-mile trail around the lake bank. The lake has good popula-

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tions of largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, and some redear. The lake is also stocked twice each year with 10-inch rainbow trout. The lake is not open to boating or swimming. Additional regulations are posted at the parking lot.

The majority of the 450-acre hunting area at Ferne Clyffe is forested or in brushy habitat. Deer and squirrel populations are good. There are also fair populations of quail and rabbit. Annual food patches are planted in open areas to enhance the habitat for upland game species. Visit the hunter check station prior to your hunt to obtain necessary regulations and information.

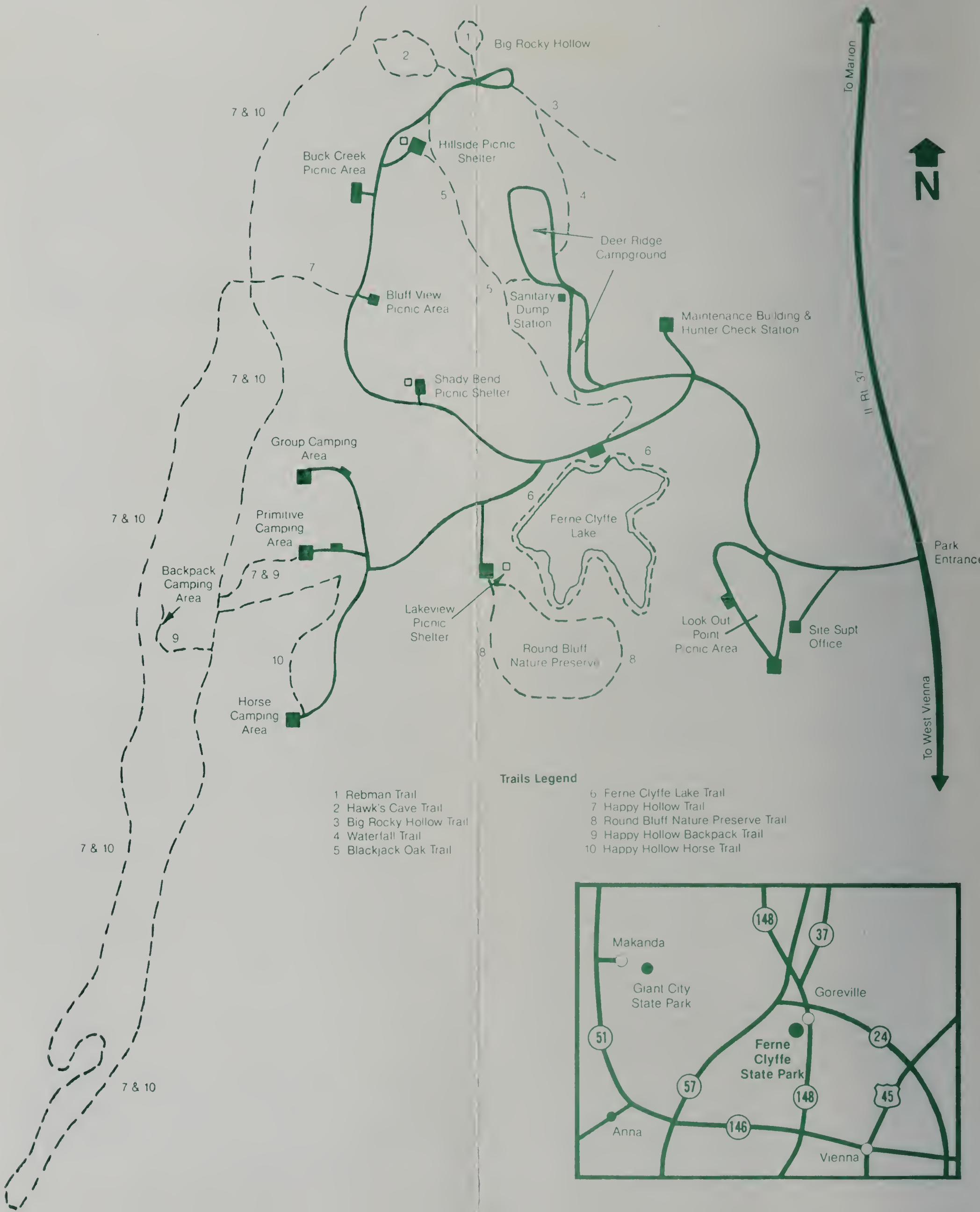
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the Site Superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodging facilities and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, Giant City, and White Pines Forest. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year-round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more information, contact Ferne Clyffe State Park, Box 120, Goreville, Illinois 62939, phone (618) 995-2411. For information on other Illinois sites, contact the Department of Conservation, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Illinois 62706.



Trails Legend

- 1 Rebman Trail
- 2 Hawk's Cave Trail
- 3 Big Rocky Hollow Trail
- 4 Waterfall Trail
- 5 Blackjack Oak Trail
- 6 Ferne Clyffe Lake Trail
- 7 Happy Hollow Trail
- 8 Round Bluff Nature Preserve Trail
- 9 Happy Hollow Backpack Trail
- 10 Happy Hollow Horse Trail

